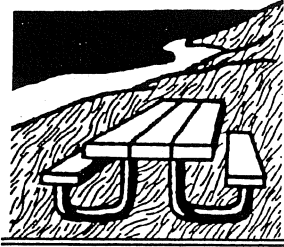


## C. PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

### 1. EXISTING SETTING



One County park is located in the Montecito Planning Area; 12-acre Manning Park located at 449 San Ysidro Road. The 74-acre Toro Canyon park is located approximately one and a half miles east of the Planning Area on 572 Toro Canyon Road and is frequently used by Montecito residents. Both parks provide picnic and horseshoe facilities, walking trails and open space for recreational activities. In addition, Manning Park provides facilities for softball, volleyball and tennis. Funds for park maintenance and expansion come from various sources: oil royalties, SB959 oil grants, Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund, Quimby fees, development mitigation fees, State grants, Federal grants, Coastal Conservancy grants and County General Fund monies.



*Large trees mark the entrance of Montecito's Manning Park*

In addition to parks, the Montecito Planning Area includes an extensive trail system. Several trails follow stream drainages that drain the slopes of the Santa Ynez Range and coastal plain and open to outlets at Montecito beaches. These trails are used for walking, hiking, biking and horse-back riding.

Within the Planning Area, approximately ninety vacant and subdividable lots are crossed by proposed trail alignments. Other vacant parcels are highly visible from these trails. Future development in these areas could disrupt trails by directly blocking access or lead to significant changes in trail aesthetics through new home construction, grading, tree removal, etc. Planning, maintenance and trail establishment in the Planning Area are handled by the County Park Department with assistance from a community trails group, the Montecito Trails Foundation.

The Planning Area is bordered on the south by approximately three miles of coastline open to the public which can be described in terms of four general areas, Fernald Point, Miramar Beach, Hammond's Meadow and Channel Drive. Combined, these beach areas are very popular for walking, jogging, picnicking, sunbathing, swimming, surfing and for scientific and educational study of the intertidal habitat. The County maintains public access easements at the terminus of Eucalyptus Lane and Posilipo Lane. Public access is also available along the coast at Hammond's Meadow and at Butterfly Beach.

## ***2. GOALS, POLICIES, ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS***

**GOAL PRT-M-1: Develop And Protect Diverse Outdoor Recreational Opportunities To Strive To Ensure That The Community's Current And Future Recreational Needs Are Met.**

**Policy PRT-M-1.1:** The County shall identify new sites for recreational use (including appropriate sites for active recreational facilities) and enhance current facilities in the Montecito community.

**Action PRT-M-1.1.1:** The Park Department shall update the Manning Park Master Plan to make the Park consistent and compatible with adjacent residential neighborhoods.

**Action PRT-M-1.1.2:** The Park Department shall develop operational guidelines for Manning Park use which shall take into consideration noise, traffic and hours of operation which are compatible with the community's quality of life and the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The County shall periodically hold community meetings to hear public input on the guidelines and/or their implementation.

**Action PRT-M-1.1.3:** Where feasible, the County Parks Department and the School Districts should continue to develop Joint Use Facilities and Programs on school sites.

**Policy PRT-M-1.2:** Bikeways, equestrian and walking paths within road rights-of-way and equestrian and walking paths along creek channels and through open spaces should be provided in Montecito for recreation as well as for an alternative means of transportation.

**Policy PRT-M-1.3:** If feasible, the County shall provide increased opportunities for beach access and recreation in the Montecito Planning Area.

**Action PRT-M-1.3.1:** If feasible, the County shall acquire an easement for the bluff and beach area south of Channel Drive between the cemetery and the Coral Casino. The

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easement shall be for public recreation and beach access. Permitted uses shall include walking, swimming, sunbathing, walking dogs, etc. The County shall be responsible for maintenance of stairways, collection of trash, provision of bicycle racks, and maintenance of landscaping. The County shall also be responsible for marking off a swimming area during the summer months. At such time as the County is able to provide an equivalent amount of public parking elsewhere in the vicinity, parking on one side of Channel Drive shall be eliminated in order to accommodate bicycle lanes.

**Action PRT-M-1.3.2:** The County shall pursue any reasonable options for increased public access in the Posilipo Lane and Fernald Point area that may become available in the future if feasible.

**Policy PRT-M-1.4:** The public areas on the Ocean Meadows property shall be maintained as a passive recreational use.

**Policy PRT-M-1.5:** In compliance with applicable legal requirements, and consistent with the County's adopted Agricultural Element, all opportunities for public recreational trails within those general corridors adopted by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails (PRT) maps of the County Comprehensive Plan shall be protected, preserved, and provided for during and upon approval of any development, subdivision, and/or permit requiring any discretionary review or approval.

**Development Standard PRT-M-1.5.1:** Designated trail corridors shall be kept clear from encroachment by new uses or development to the extent reasonably feasible.

**Development Standard PRT-M-1.5.2:** Recreational trail corridors shall be protected for future use by conditions placed upon all development which may directly affect the designated trail corridors to require a permanent dedication of useable public trails through such trail corridors.

**Action PRT-M-1.5.1:** The County shall actively pursue acquisition of interconnecting useable public trails within designated trail corridors through negotiation with property owners for purchase, through exchange for surplus County property as available, or through acceptance of gifts and other voluntary dedication of easements.

**Action PRT-M-1.5.2:** When funding becomes available, the County shall design a program which provides for phasing and setting of priorities for the acquisition and/or development of each trail identified in the adopted County Comprehensive Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Trails (PRT) map. The County shall pursue protection of the recreational

trails network and promote expansion to meet the goals of this plan to achieve desirable additional recreational trails and open space through:

- a. Expansion of the County Capital Improvement Plan for acquisition of additional recreational trail properties;
- b. Pursuit and protection of title to properties that are in the public domain through past use of development and;
- c. Acquisition of desirable property and/or property necessary to expand trail networks to provide key interconnections or to meet pressing public demand through negotiated acquisition and/or acquisition through eminent domain proceedings as approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

**Action PRT-M-1.5.3:** In developing the trail system, the County shall make the following provisions:

- a. Provide adequate trail signage at all major trail heads and other signs and markers on public recreational trails in Montecito in cooperation with the Montecito Trails Association;
- b. Provide for the maintenance of the trail system in Montecito

**Policy PRT-M-1.6:** New development shall not adversely impact existing recreational facilities and uses.

**Action PRT-M-1.6.1:** The County shall amend the appropriate funding sections of Article II and IV, except the Coastal Development Permit and Land Use Permit Section, to require the following:

**Development Standard PRT-M-1.6.1:** In approving new development, the County shall make the finding that the development will not adversely impact recreational facilities and uses.